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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 005882

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

French parliament: Turkey not ready for EU - Hurriyet  
France wants entry talks with Turkey, but 'restricted'  
membership - Milliyet  
French PM: We cannot exclude Turkey from EU - Aksam  
Balir: Turkey definitely belongs to EU - Sabah  
Angela Merkel gives up anti-Turkey campaign - Hurriyet  
Zana: Turkey's Kurds want peace - Milliyet  
Another Turk beheaded in Iraq - Milliyet  
Killers behead another Turk in Iraq - Aksam  
'TRNC PM': Turkey must resist EU calls for recognizing  
Nicosia - Milliyet  
Kerry: 3 - Bush: 0

##### OPINION MAKERS

French parliament split over Turkey's EU bid - Zaman  
Blair: Turkey will be a significant gain for EU - Yeni Safak  
Iraqi insurgency on rise before upcoming elections -  
Cumhuriyet  
'TRNC PM': We won't accept recognition by Ankara of Nicosia  
- Radikal  
Kerry very eloquent - Cumhuriyet  
Kerry wins last round by a slight margin - Zaman  
Scowcroft: Bush a 'toy' of Sharon - Yeni Safak  
Israeli foreign ministry warns against becoming a 'rogue'  
state - Radikal  
Kerry: Bus a 'mob boss' - Yeni Safak  
Serbs admit Srebrenidza massacre - Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

Turkish leaders discuss Iraq: On Thursday, PM Erdogan, FM  
Gul, TGS Chief General Ozkok and some other top Turkish  
officials met in Ankara to discuss the situation in northern  
Iraq and the security of Turkish workers in the region,  
papers report. Ankara has decided to monitor closely the  
mass movement of Kurds around Kirkuk, and press for US  
military action against the PKK in northern Iraq. Turkish  
leaders will tell the US that ethnic clashes in Iraq would  
have a negative effect on the stability in neighboring  
countries, say papers. Dailies report TGS Chief General  
Ozkok as stressing that Kirkuk has become a powder keg  
following the US operation against the Turkmen in Tal Afar.  
Turkish leaders, in an effort to prevent terrorist  
infiltration into Turkey, have agreed to launch a military  
cross-border operation against the PKK militants hiding in  
Kandil mountains in northern Iraq, "Aksam" speculates.

Ocalan on US/Kurds: Any Kurd not willing to cooperate with  
the US is a fool, said Osman Ocalan, brother of the PKK's  
imprisoned leader Abdullah Ocalan. Ocalan told "Hurriyet"  
in Suleymaniye that the US has been removing dictatorships  
in the Middle East, and is working for a resolution to the  
Kurdish problem within that framework. The founding of his  
dissident movement, the Patriotic Democrat Party (PWD) will  
be completed by late October, Ocalan said and noted that the  
new movement would then establish ties with the US. Turkey  
is our country, and Kurds cannot be deprived of their right  
to return home, he stressed.

AKP working to see Kurds in parliament: The ruling AK Party  
is seeking a formula for the inclusion of pro-Kurdish DEHAP  
in parliament without removing the 10-percent elections  
threshold, says "Cumhuriyet." AKP plans to reserve 100  
seats of the 550-seat parliament for political parties which  
remain under the threshold. AKP aims to silence charges  
directed by EU to Ankara regarding non-representation of  
Kurds in the parliament, "Cumhuriyet" speculates.

More Turks killed, abducted in Iraq: An Al-Qaeda-linked

group, Army of Ansar al-Sunna on Thursday posted a video on its website showing the beheading of a Turkish man it described as a truck driver who carries supplies to US 'crusader' forces in Iraq. The footage shows one of the hooded militants beheading the hostage and placing the head on the body. Papers report two more Turkish truckers were abducted in Iraq on Thursday.

Zana in Brussels: Former Kurdish lawmaker Leyla Zana called on Turkey on Thursday to begin a dialogue with its Kurdish minority, saying efforts to improve human rights to meet EU criteria would otherwise be 'cosmetic.' Zana, in an address partly in Turkish and partly in Kurdish to the European Parliament, urged Ankara to be more serious about implementing basic human rights standards it must meet to join the EU. 'The Turkish government must include in its agenda the democratic solution to the Kurdish issue by giving it a proper name,' she said. Bans on Kurdish broadcasting and education have been lifted during Ankara's drive to join the EU, but Turkey has not liberalized enough and is still too frightened to identify the problem, Zana emphasized.

Gang boss extradited to Turkey: Convicted Turkish underworld boss Alaattin Cakici, wanted on charges of corruption and extortion, was extradited from Austria to Turkey on Thursday. Cakici previously served sentences for 'forming and directing a gang to commit crime. Austrian police captured him in July, two months after he fled Turkey. He was at the center of a 1998 scandal over the privatization of a state bank, which resulted in the toppling of the government of then-prime minister Mesut Yilmaz. Recently, his alleged ties with the judiciary and with intelligence officials triggered investigations against the top judge of the appeals court.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Afghanistan; Election 2004

"What Type of Democracy?"  
Sami Kohen remarked in the mass appeal Milliyet (10/15):  
"The Afghanistan election is over. Iraq is preparing for a general election process for the first time in the post-Saddam era. Saudi Arabia is also going to hold a local election for the first time. These are nice events, yet to what extent can we possibly call them democratic? The fact of the matter is that none of the three examples bears any resemblance to Western-type democracies. Yet we should take into account the fact that none of these countries has any democratic tradition, democratic institution, or a culture of democracy. Elections are taking place either for the first time or in the midst of chaos and anarchy. Thus it is easy to be cynical regarding the elections in these countries. . Given the circumstances, it would be too much to expect a Western-style democratic outcome and election process overnight in Iraq, Afghanistan or Saudi Arabia. The most important gain is that these nations are on their way towards democracy. This might be a rocky and thorny road. But their determination and will for democracy does matter."

"Why Americans Continue to Believe Bush?"  
Haluk Ulman commented in the economic-politic Dunya (10/15):  
"The problems created after the intervention in Iraq are increasing every day. The Bush administration brought uncertainty to Iraq and the whole region's future, which should be of direct concern to Turkey. . There is no encouraging development regarding the fight against terrorism either. President Bush is only fooling himself by saying that the US managed to land a serious blow against international terrorism with the occupation of Iraq. The occupation in fact helped Al Qaida grow even more. . Despite many blatant mistakes by the Bush administration, the public opinion polls in the US indicate continued support for Bush. The American electors are brain-washed by the neo-con-manipulated media. Therefore at least the half of the US voters continue to believe whatever Bush says. It remains to be seen how long this will continue."

EDELMAN